

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-14 remain pending in the application, claim 9 having previously been cancelled.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner Christopher Bruenjeas and Harold Pyon to applicant's undersigned representative during a personal interview conducted on June 23, 2003. The Summary of the Interview can be found on the Examiner Interview Summary Record and will be further discussed hereinbelow.

Applicant appreciates the withdrawal of the objection to the specification and the rejection of the claims, both under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Reconsideration of the previous rejections set forth in paragraphs 3-8 of the previous Office Action are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following comments.

Each of independent claims 5 and 10 have been amended so as to close the term "comprising" to that of consisting of "an acrylic resin base containing a quaternary compound in an amount of about 1 to about 10 wt% based on the weight of the composition and, optionally, at least one material selected from the group consisting of zinc oxide and polyethylene wax." Support for the term "optionally . . ." can be found in the original dependent claims, which depend on either claims 5 or 10, e.g., claims 7 and 8, and 13 and 14.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to further recite that the quaternary compound is in an amount of 1 to about 10 wt% based on the "weight of the self-sustaining film," with support being found on page 4, first full paragraph following "Example 3" of the specification. Accordingly, the foregoing amendments do not raise the issue of new matter.

In responding to applicant's arguments (paragraph 11 of the Office Action), the examiner's argument is that Felter does teach a "self-sustaining film" if one considers that the surface dissipative coating composition coated on a vinyl surface forms a self-sustaining film of two layers in which the first layer is a vinyl layer and the second layer is the dissipative coating composition claimed by the applicant. However, applicant's claim 1 does not claim a "dissipative coating" but, rather, a self-sustaining film.

Moreover, applicant respectfully submits that Felter does not teach a quaternary ammonium compound in an amount of 1 to about 10 wt% based on the weight of the self-sustaining film (i.e., the combination of a surface dissipative coating composition coated on a vinyl surface) as suggested by the examiner. To the contrary, Felter contains no disclosure as to the weight of the electrically conductive material based on the total weight of the electroconductive material and vinyl layer (i.e., the examiner's definition of a self-sustaining film). Accordingly, Felter cannot possibly act as an anticipatory reference to the claimed invention and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

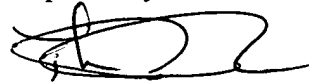
As to the further teachings of Felter, Felter only includes the quaternary antistatic agent to prevent "sweat out" from the coating of colylenemethylsulfate at high relative humidity; See, the detailed description of the invention, beginning at column 2, lines 1-10. Each of claims 5-8 and 10-14 exclude the presence of the choline methosulfate by the use of the term "consisting of" in each of independent claims 5 and 10.

Applicants also request reconsideration of each of the rejections in which Felter is utilized in combination with one or more other references under 35 U.S.C. 103 insofar as there would have been no motivation to exclude the choline methosulfate as in the present claims, yet retain the

quaternary ammonium compound since the sole purpose of including the quaternary ammonium compound in Felter is to prevent "sweat out" of the choline methosulfate agent. Thus, the proposed combination of Felter with one or more references still fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the claimed invention.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing comments.

Respectfully submitted,



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